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When he sells a book he removes the mark with a rubber. The thief had simply stolen these volumes here and there and not taken the precaution to remove the mark, and the dealer to whom he had offered them for sale had identified them. The books were returned to their owners. When the thief returned for his money he was given a list of names and told to go there and collect. It is scarcely necessary to state whether he went or not, I imagine

### THE NUMISMATICAL SOCIETY

At the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society's regular meeting at the Academy of Medicine Building, 17 West 43d street, on May 15, President Parish presiding, the Executive Committee reported that the proposition for resident membership of Louis Meredith Howland, and for corresponding membership of Rev. William King Eddy, of Sidon, Syria, and Charles H. Huberich, of San Antonio, Texas, had been received and approved. The Executive Committee was authorized to solicit subscriptions for \$500 to cover the expenses of printing annual proceedings and papers read before the society to date, together with a history of the society, roll of members, etc.; also to cover the expenses of removal to the new quarters in the Academy of Medicine Building, fittings, etc. Mr. A. C. Zabriskie, as chairman of the Building Committee, reported that he felt much good had been accomplished, for through the committee's endeavors the society had changed its former uncomfortable quarters to new and permanent ones which were all that could be desired.

The Publication Committee reported that they were going ahead with the printing of proceedings, and would hope to place them in the hands of members before the next regular meeting. The Librarian reported additions of five bound volumes and twenty pamphlets. The books were gifts of Smithsonian Institution, Chas. H. Huberich, H. R. Drowne, Lyman H. Low and B. L. Belden. The Curator of Numismatics reported two very important donations: a collection of some two or three hundred tokens of Holland, comprising quite a collection of these pieces from Daniel Parish, Jr.; also from the former treasurer, Mr. Benjamin Betts, a large iron safe, specially arranged for the storage of the most valuable coins and medals. On motion the society tendered Mr. Betts a special vote of thanks for his useful and valuable gift. The Curator of Archaeology requested an allotment of space in which to exhibit archaeological specimens, and hoped it would lead to additions in that department.

Mr. D. Z. Noorian, an American who acted as interpreter for the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe and University of Pennsylvania expeditions to explore regions around Babylonia, was introduced to the society. A letter of good wishes was read from corresponding member J. A. Bolen, of Springfield, Mass.

### A NEW ART SALESROOM

THE season of the Fifth Avenue Auction Rooms being practically ended, the summer at this establishment will be largely devoted to extending and improving the place, with a view to the largest possible expansion of its business. A part of this labor involves the building of a gallery, in which the most numerous collection of pictures may be shown by day under an admirably-planned system of top-lighting. This new gallery, which will measure 28x125 feet of floor, will be ready in ample time for the opening of the fall season, and contracts for picture sales may be negotiated at any time during the summer against the inauguration of the new annex. The provisions for the display and sale of fine furniture, bric-à-brac, tapestries and other objects of art will also be amplified, and it is expected that the renovated Fifth Avenue Auction Rooms will be, in their entirety, one of the most capacious and commodious sales establishments in the country.

### RELICS AND RUBBISH

JOSEPH BRADDON, of Yonkers, N. Y., has in his possession an Indian flint ax which weighs about eight pounds and was found by some workmen digging on the Morrell farm at Scarborough, near by.

ALDERMAN HENRY G. MILLER, of Lebanon, Pa., has a number of interesting local documents, land deeds, etc., dating back to the commencement of the eighteenth century, and containing autographs of Thomas Penn, Caspar Wistar and many other Pennsylvania notables.

MRS. ELIZABETH FRANK, of Baltimore, Md., possesses a curious little collection of Martin Luther relics, including a cross and pair of earrings once worn by the great reformer's mother, and a Bible and a tea cup which are credited to the same ownership—in spite of the fact that tea was unknown in Germany in good Frau Luther's time.

MRS. AUGUSTA W. PARKER, of Milford, Mass., has presented to the Wilde Memorial Library, at Acton, Mass., a pair of old-fashioned shoe-buckles and a lock of hair, relics of James Hayward, one of the Minute Men of 1775 who was killed at Lexington.

## SHAKESPEARE IN OMAHA

(Special Correspondence of THE COLLECTOR)

IN a recent issue of THE COLLECTOR was reviewed Mr. D. M. Tredwell's extremely interesting "Monograph on Privately Illustrated Books," and in this work occurs the following:

Many of our readers will be surprised to learn that some of the rarest illustrated books in the country are to be found in Nebraska. The collection of W. H. Wyman, of Omaha, occupies that enviable position; there are 100 illustrated volumes in Mr. Wyman's library, containing nearly 10,000 extra illustrations.

Of the "Works of Shakespeare," he has the Routledge edition, 1881, edited by Staunton and illustrated by Gilbert. This work he has extended to forty volumes by the insertion of 2,681 prints, with especially printed title page to each volume. Volume I is "Life," with 110 illustrations, pertaining to the life only. Volume II, "Life," with 135 portraits only. Volumes III to XXXIX are the thirty-seven plays, one to each volume, with 2,365 prints. Volume XL is the poems, containing 71 extra illustrations. As to the illustrations, they were sent with the original volumes to W. W. Sabin, London, in January, 1882. Mr. Sabin had the work in hand a year and a half, collecting additional illustrations and improving poor ones, etc. Some of them are very fine. A water color of Shakespeare's house was prepared especially for this work, which was bound in London and returned in 1883.

Also a "Biography of William Shakespeare," by Charles Knight. This is the largest edition; the pages are 13x9 inches. It is illustrated by 130 inserted prints of portraits and scenes illustrative of Shakespeare's life. Amongst the portraits is an undoubted impression of the Droeshout copperplate, first attached to the folio of 1623. This copy bears that date, but was attached to some other work. Superbly bound in brown morocco by Karrmann of Cincinnati.

Also, W. H. Wyman's "Bibliography of the Bacon-Shakespeare Controversy," with subsequent papers, extra illustrated by portraits, mostly photographs, of sixty of the prominent writers on the subject. "Dictionary of American Biography," by Francis S. Drake, Boston, 1881; one volume extended to twenty volumes by the insertion of 3,160 portraits. These are of all classes—steel, colored, and an occasional photograph—and include 1,614 different persons mentioned in the work. Of Washington there are thirty; Lincoln, thirty-one. There are some drawings in India ink, made expressly for the work. Bound by Karrmann of Cincinnati.

"Library Notes," by A. P. Russell, 1881; one volume extended to three; illustrated by portrait of the author and 352 portraits of celebrated authors and others mentioned in the work. An interesting and excellently illustrated work.

"The Stage," by James E. Murdoch, 1880. One volume extended to two by the insertion of 129 prints, many old and rare portraits of actors in character.

"Life of Horace Greeley," by L. D. Ingersoll, 1873. One volume extended to three by the insertion of 380 illustrations of his immediate contemporaries and political associates, a peculiar autograph letter, and about twenty different portraits of Greeley.

"History of the Flag of the United States of America," by Admiral George H. Preble, 1880. One volume extended to three, with 259 illustrations, mostly of persons prominently connected with the military and naval history of the United States.

The above are not all, but constitute the most attractive and valuable of the list.

Flattering as Mr. Tredwell's tribute to the collection of Mr. Wyman is, it does not do that gentleman all the justice he deserves. Mr. Wyman came from Cincinnati about a year ago with his family to cast his fortunes among us. He brought with him a most excellent library of some 1,200 volumes, culled from his Cincinnati books, numbering 2,200; 600 of them are Shakespearean. Two hundred are devoted to the discussion, "Did Bacon write Shakespeare's Plays?" and about 100 volumes are extra-illustrated. These two subjects are what Mr. Wyman admits to be his hobbies—he believes every man should have a hobby or two and should ride them, and from these he has derived much that was at once pleasant and educational. Of the remaining volumes there are old books, new books, reference books and books such as those would enjoy who have drunk "deep of the Pierian spring."

Of rare old books there are "Biblia Sacra," a very early specimen of printing without title-page, or colophon, or date; having initial letters rubricated, and is in fine order. Mr. Wyman places its date not earlier than 1480. The famous old "Breeches" Bible, 1614, is so called on account of the translation of the third chapter Genesis, seventh verse, thus: "Then the eyes of them both were opened and they knew that they were naked and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves breeches." This is bound in the same volume with Sternhold & Hopkins' "Whole Booke of Psalmes" (1633) and a concordance, 1613. Among others are "Beza's Sermons," in vellum binding, 1687, "Raleigh's History of